

**From:** Michael.Martak@sun.com@inetgw  
**To:** Microsoft ATR,michael.martak@sun.com@inetgw  
**Date:** 1/15/02 7:30pm  
**Subject:** Microsoft Settlement

To Whom It May Concern,

In 1997, I took a job as a software graphical user interface engineer for a company called Imedia Corporation. At that time, the technical leadership of the company had determined that the graphical user interface for the project needed to be supported in a web browser, and as a result, Sun Microsystem's Java technology was chosen. As a then Microsoft developer, I preferred to retain my skills in Microsoft's tools while learning what was required to complete my task in Java, remaining agnostic towards any particular platform or vendor.

What happened externally during the life of that project was shocking, unprofessional, unethical, and (as we now know) historic. Microsoft decided to wrest control of Java technology from Sun Microsystems, not only at a platform libraries level, but at the language-specification level by adding new keywords whose intention was uncontestably to subvert the promise of "write once, run anywhere" that made Java technology an appealing choice for developers. As we know, Sun Microsystems sued Microsoft over this issue and won it, but at the cost of Microsoft's dropping Java support entirely from their operating system and browser.

While this was happening, though the future of the technology was uncertain, my own project at Imedia Corporation was going extremely well. Java technology had allowed me enough time to complete my project and had given me plenty of time to tune it, a much faster turnaround for a project than I had ever been accustomed to. The entire time I could not help but feel that the world was losing a fantastic technology that was being stifled only through monopoly power.

Now it is 2002, and sadly, Java technology has still not become widely available on the desktop. I now work for Microsoft's competitor, Sun Microsystems, which I find ironic because of Microsoft's attempt to determine the future of my project and own my code or choice of language. Microsoft made me a competitor, and all I ever wanted to do was to own my own code, and be free to choose the right technology for the right job. As a professional software developer, it is highly important to me that Microsoft's illegal abuse of monopoly power has stifled innovation, created an environment with little to no regard for security, and left the consumer vulnerable and unaware that there is even anything missing or wrong. Innovation is easy to measure, but measuring non-innovation is difficult.

It is important for software developers and the future of technology that Microsoft not be allowed to walk away from stifling innovation for so long without suffering so much as a scratch, and for these reasons (as well as more specific technical ones), I highly disagree with the proposed settlement between the Department of Justice, nine states, and Microsoft.

I would like to extend support to the proposed remedy by the nine states which objected to the settlement, including the state of California, of which I am a resident as well as a registered voter. I believe that this solution is far better for the state of technology, Java technology in particular, as well as the security and integrity of data for all consumers.

Because I work for a competitor of Microsoft, I want to assert that my opinion as a software professional is my own and is unsolicited by Sun Microsystems.

This I swear under penalty of perjury,

Sincerely,  
Michael Martak  
Oakland, California